

FILING A DECLARATION OF WRITE-IN CANDIDACY

Qualifications for Write-in Candidates

In order to file a declaration of write-in candidacy, you must be qualified to assume office if elected.

You may only file for a single office in any primary or general election, except for Precinct Committee Officer.

If you filed a declaration of candidacy for the same office at the preceding primary as either a regular or write-in candidate, you are not eligible to be a write-in candidate for the general election.

The day prior to the primary or general election is the last day a declaration of write-in candidacy may be filed.

Advantages of Filing a Write-in Declaration

Filing as a write-in candidate allows voters to write your name, or a recognizable variation of your name, under the office heading and still have the vote counted. Minor variations of your name will be accepted as long as the voter's intent is discernable. Voters do not need to write in your party preference or the title of the office you seek.

Restrictions for Write-in Candidates

As a write-candidate your name will not be printed on the ballot and will not appear in any voters' pamphlet.

Should you qualify for the general election ballot by gathering the greatest number, or second greatest number, of votes cast and at least 1% of the total votes cast for the race in the primary, your name will be printed on the general election ballot and appear in the voters' pamphlet.

Write-in votes are not tabulated unless there are enough to change the outcome of the election.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE DECLARATION OF WRITE-IN CANDIDACY

Line 1. Print your name as you are registered to vote.

Line 2. Print the address at which you are registered to vote. Each candidate is responsible for ensuring that he or she meets **all** the qualifications of the office sought **at the time he or she files the declaration of candidacy**.

Line 3. Print your campaign's mailing address, telephone number, and e-mail address. Providing a telephone number and e-mail address is recommended, but not required. Contact information will be made available to the public. The election administrator and the Public Disclosure Commission may use the telephone number or e-mail address to provide campaign information to you.

A government office telephone number or e-mail address cannot be used for campaign purposes according to RCW 42.17.130 and RCW 42.52.180.

Line 4. Print the name of the office for which you are a candidate. For example, "State Representative...22nd District ...Position 1" or "City Councilman...Olympia...Position 4." Find out **prior** to the filing period the offices for which you are eligible to file. Responsibility for filing for the correct office is yours.

Line 5. Check the appropriate box. If you assert that you have insufficient assets or income to pay the filing fee, you may submit a filing fee petition, as described in RCW 29A.24.101, with the declaration of candidacy.

Line 6. Should you succeed in qualifying for a general election, your name would be listed in voters' pamphlets and on the general election ballot. Print your name exactly as you wish it to appear on the ballot. Nicknames are acceptable. You may not use any nickname or title that denotes past or present occupation, including military rank, your position on issues, your political affiliation, or anything intentionally designed to mislead voters.

Line 7. If the office is a partisan office, you may state a political party that you personally prefer. Your preference does not imply that you have been nominated or endorsed by the party, or that the party approves of or associates with you. You also have the option of not stating a political party preference.

If you would like to state your preference, fill in the name of the party, up to 16 characters. The first letter of the party preference will be capitalized (*e.g.*, Democratic). If you want to use initials, separate each letter with a period (*e.g.*, G.O.P.) Your personal party preference will be printed on the ballot as follows:

JOHN SMITH
(Prefers Example Party)
JANE DOE
(States No Party Preference)

If no party name is provided, "(States No Party Preference)" will be printed on the ballot. If you qualify for the general election, the party preference printed on the primary election ballot will be printed the same on the general election ballot.

Line 8. Read the oath. Sign the declaration of candidacy only in the presence of a notary public or the officer with whom the declaration is filed.

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS

INITIAL PUBLIC DISCLOSURE REPORTS MUST BE FILED WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF BECOMING A CANDIDATE.

Candidates for federal office, precinct committee officer, cemetery districts, and districts where voters must have special qualifications such as the ownership of land are exempt from state public disclosure requirements.

IF THE OFFICE SOUGHT HAD, AS OF THE LAST GENERAL ELECTION:	PUBLIC DISCLOSURE REPORTS REQUIRED
Fewer than 1,000 registered voters, and the candidate has not received and does not expect to receive contributions of \$5,000 or more in the aggregate.	None.
1,000-4,999 registered voters and an area less than the entire county, and the candidate has not received and does not expect to receive contributions of \$5,000 or more in the aggregate.	Financial Affairs Statement (Form F-1).
5,000 or more registered voters or a countywide area or larger.	Financial Affairs Statement (Form F-1). Campaign Finance Reports ("C" series forms).

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date _____ Fee Paid \$ _____ Filing No. _____ Office Code _____
☐ Check ☐ Debit/Credit
☐ Cash ☐ Filing Fee Petition Voter Registration # _____ Clerk Initials _____

DECLARATION OF WRITE-IN CANDIDACY

1. I, _____ am a registered voter residing at:
(PRINT NAME AS YOU ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE)

2. _____
(STREET ADDRESS OR RURAL ROUTE) (CITY) (COUNTY) (ZIP)

and, at the time of filing this declaration, I am legally qualified to assume office if elected.

3. My campaign contact information is:

(MAILING ADDRESS) (CITY) (STATE) (ZIP)

(TELEPHONE NUMBER) (EMAIL ADDRESS)

4. I declare myself as a candidate for the office of:

(NAME OF OFFICE including DISTRICT or POSITION NUMBER)

(CONGRESSIONAL OR LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT, COUNTY, CITY, OR OTHER JURISDICTION)

5. Filing Fee (check one):

- ☐ There is no filing fee because the office has no fixed annual salary;
☐ I am submitting a filing fee of \$10 because the fixed annual salary of the office is \$1,000 or less;
☐ I am submitting a filing fee of \$_____, an amount equal to 1% of the annual salary; or
☐ I am without sufficient assets or income to pay the filing fee and am submitting a filing fee petition in lieu of this fee.

6. If my name appears on a ballot, print exactly as follows: _____
(PLEASE PRINT)

7. If the office is partisan, your party preference, if any, will be printed on the ballot exactly as follows:

- ☐ (Prefers ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ Party) or
☐ (States No Party Preference)

If you fail to check a box or provide a party name, "(States No Party Preference)" will be printed.

I declare that this information is, to the best of my knowledge, true. I also swear, or affirm, that I will support the Constitution and laws of the United States and the Constitution and laws of the State of Washington.

*Note: Your signature must be personally
attested to by a notary public or by the officer
with whom the declaration is filed.*

8. Sign Here X

(SIGNATURE OF CANDIDATE AS REGISTERED TO VOTE)

STATE OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF _____

(SEAL OR STAMP)

Signed or Attested before me on _____
(DATE)

by _____
(CANDIDATE)

(SIGNATURE OF NOTARY)

(TITLE)

MY APPOINTMENT EXPIRES: _____